

2004 REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON APPORTIONMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

ON THE

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302(b)(2)(B) OF THE
MAGNUSON-STEVEN'S FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

PREPARED BY

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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A. BACKGROUND

Section 302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Secretary (Secretary) to report annually to Congress on the achievement, to the extent practicable, of a “fair and balanced apportionment,” on a rotating or other basis, of the active participants (or their representatives) in the commercial and recreational fisheries under the jurisdiction of each Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC). This is the thirteenth Report related to the status of such apportionments.^{1/} In addition to assessing the annual apportionment of RFMC memberships, this Report discusses significant fishery management issues and related actions either under development or pending in the future.

B. FAIR AND BALANCED RFMC MEMBERSHIP

The consideration of balance and fairness between commercial and recreational fishing sectors has always been an important element in the Secretary’s appointments. An equally important consideration is the stewardship responsibilities of RFMCs and the appointment of individuals who can work collectively with members to achieve the conservation standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Successful nominees, therefore, are those who not only are qualified in accordance with the provisions located at 50 CFR 600.215, but will also best contribute to the stewardship of marine fishery resources.^{2/}

Generally, the most qualified nominees are those whose records indicate they—

1. Have achieved a level of leadership in promoting stewardship of the marine fishery resources under the jurisdiction of the RFMCs to which they would be appointed; and
2. Participate in, or represent commercial fishermen participating in, one or more commercial fisheries under the RFMCs’ jurisdictions; or
3. Participate in, or represent recreational fishermen participating in, one or more recreational fisheries under the RFMCs’ jurisdictions; or
4. Are otherwise experienced in and/or knowledgeable in leadership of organizations whose members participate in a fishery, management and conservation of natural resources, representatives of consumers, teachers, journalists, writers, consultants, lawyers or marine fishery researchers.

^{1/}The initial report assess the RFMC membership in 1991 and 1992 and was submitted to Congress on September 1, 1992.

^{2/}The qualifications for appointment are derived from Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson Stevens Act and are also included in regulations contained at 50 CFR 600.215.

Standard for Apportionment

Before evaluating each RFMC with respect to fairness and balance, the Secretary must first have a standard for such judgments. Although clear as to intent, the amendments to the Sustainable Fisheries Act and their legislative history did not provide specific guidance for judging whether the Secretary's appointments meet the statutory standard. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has addressed the requirement by reasoning that, in the ideal case, voting members should be individuals with prescribed qualifications related to commercial or to recreational fishing within the RFMC's area of jurisdiction, or individuals with qualifications in one of the "other" related fishing interest categories, who are personally committed to meet the RFMC's trusteeship responsibilities for the living marine resources. This continues to be the yardstick for judging whether an individual RFMC will fulfill its paramount mandate, the conservation and management of fisheries resources.

Over the past decade, fishery management issues have become increasingly complex. Therefore, RFMC members who possess the necessary background and abilities to address current issues are critical to the ultimate success of the RFMCs. A significant consideration in appointing members is their specific knowledge of the conservation and management issues and fisheries in which each RFMC is expected to be involved. Also important is the level of nominees' participation in the fishery management process, and the support for the nominees from the fishing sector communities and other individuals, largely through endorsement letters to the Secretary.

For the purposes of this Report, three general fishing interest sectors are discussed: the commercial fishing sector, the recreational fishing sector, and an "other" sector. The "other" sector is made up of appointed members with knowledge of, and experience in: biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields.

Nominees may be categorized as participants in more than one of the three general fishing interest sectors. In these cases, the Agency's determination about a nominee's primary interest sector is the result of the Agency's interpretation of: (1) supporting background information provided by the nominating governor, (2) background information provided by the nominee, reflecting the nominee's demonstrated principal participation, and (3) other supplemental information provided by reliable sources.

C. APPORTIONMENT OF RFMC MEMBERSHIP

RFMC members are appointed from among qualified individuals nominated by the governors of the RFMCs' constituent states and, in the case of tribal representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), from among Indian representatives nominated by the appropriate Tribal Governments. A major factor in meeting the requirement to balance membership is the cooperation of the governors of the constituent states in nominating qualified individuals who are knowledgeable regarding conservation

and management of the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources. The process works best when governors provide the Secretary with a wide diversity of highly qualified nominees to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

On June 16, 2004, the Department of Commerce announced the appointment or reappointment of 17 voting obligatory and at-large RFMC members whose 3-year terms, having commenced on August 11, 2004, will expire on August 10, 2007. In addition, two obligatory seats were announced on July 28, 2004, for a total of 19 appointments in 2004. This total includes an out-of-cycle appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), which was announced in January 2005.

Table 1 shows the current totals in the distribution of Secretarially appointed RFMC voting members by interest sector for 2002, 2003, and 2004 (page 7). In 2004, 11 members were appointed from the commercial fishing sector, 5 members were appointed from the recreational fishing sector, and 3 members were appointed from the “other” sector. The tribal representative on the PFMC for the purposes of this table is counted as a member of the “other” sector.

Because of the limited number of RFMC seats, not all sectors and localities can be represented on each RFMC. In addition, the Secretary’s appointments are constrained by the nominations submitted by the RFMC governors. Within these parameters, the Secretary endeavors to select appointees who possess the breadth of knowledge and experience to collectively provide a balance on each RFMC, and who pursue their RFMC roles as stewards and trustees of the living resources. To the extent practicable, the appointments also seek to rotate membership, thereby distributing participation among all sectors of the fisheries specific actions. Adjustments to the distribution of representation on each RFMC are also made, where possible, to achieve a balance of interest sectors or needed experience to address changing agendas.

Where sector or gear components are not represented on a RFMC, membership on the various RFMC advisory panels and committees is also crucial to providing those sectors with representation during RFMC deliberations, as well as with a “voice” on specific issues of interest.

Women and Minority Representation

Prior to the 2004 appointments, ten women served on the RFMCs. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the RFMCs gained two new women, Frances E. Puskas on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Rita G. Merritt on the SAFMC. Four women were reappointed to the RFMC in 2004: Yvonne M. Peabody on

the MAFMC, Monica M. Lester on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), Julie K. Morris on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), and Stephanie D. Madsen on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The appointments/reappointments bring the total number of women on RFMCs to twelve.

Several governors also included minority candidates in their slates of nominations for the 2004 RFMC appointment process. Governors will continue to be encouraged to nominate qualified female and minority candidates.

D. RFMC MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES DURING 2005

Table 2, page 8, lists the 22 RFMC members whose terms will expire on August 10, 2005. Table 3, page 9, sorts the 22 RFMC members into the three general fishing sector categories.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act prohibits the reappointment of RFMC members to a fourth consecutive term. As a result, 6 of the 22 members whose terms expire in 2005 will be ineligible for renomination consideration. The members are: John C. Williamson on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), at-large seat/Maine; Ricks E. Savage on the MAFMC, Maryland's obligatory seat; Maumus F. Claverie on the GMFMC, at-large seat/Louisiana; Ralph H. Brown on the PFMFMC, at-large seat/Oregon; and Frank P. Farm, Jr. and Roy N. Morioka on the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC), at-large seats/Hawaii.

TABLE 1: APPOINTED RFMC MEMBERS SORTED NUMERICALLY BY FISHING SECTOR INTERESTS (2002-2004)

	Year	Commercial	Recreational	“Other”	Total
NEFMC	2002	9 <u>3/</u>	2	1	12
	2003	9	2	1	12
	2004	8	3	1	12
MAFMC	2002	6	5	2	13
	2003	6	5 <u>9/</u>	2	13
	2004	6	5	2	13
SAFMC	2002	3	3 <u>4/</u>	1	7
	2003	3	4	1	8
	2004	3	4 <u>9/</u>	1	8
GMFMC	2002	3	7	1	11
	2003	4	6	1	11
	2004	5	5	1	11
CFMC	2002	2	1	1	4
	2003	2	1	1	4
	2004	2	1	1	4
PFMC	2002	3	3	3 <u>6/</u>	9
	2003	2	5	2	9
	2004	2	5	2	9
NPFMC	2002	4	1 <u>7/</u>	2	7
	2003	6	1	0	7
	2004	6	1	0	7
WPFMC	2002	3	3	2	8
	2003	4	4	0	8
	2004	3	3	2 <u>10/</u>	8
ALL RFMCs	2002	33	25	13	71 (see footnote 4)
	2003	36	28	8	72
	2004	35	27	10	72

3/William J. Brennan, a resident of Maine, resigned effective June 2002. With the appointment of Mr. Rice, the total number of members on the NEFMC representing the commercial fishing sector increased by one, and the total number of members on the NEFMC representing the “other” sector decreased by one.

4/Due to the resignation of Glen H. Durden who was completing a term due to expire on August 10, 2003, the appointment of a member to Georgia’s obligatory seat is still pending.

5/This total also reflects a vacancy on the Pacific Council due to the expiration of a term on August 10, 2001 to Idaho’s obligatory seat. This total includes the Tribal representative, who for the purposes of this table, is counted as a representative of the “other” sector.

6/This total includes the June 17, 2002, appointment of David Ortmann to Idaho’s obligatory seat which expired on August 10, 2001, and the Tribal representative, who for the purposes of this table, is counted as a representative of the “other” sector.

7/Robert C. Penney resigned effective October 2002. With the appointment of Mr. Ellis, the total number of members on the NPFMC representing the recreational fishing sector remains the same.

8/Edward J. Mesons, a resident of Pennsylvania, resigned effective January 2003. With the appointment of Mr. Kray, the total number of members on the MAFMC representing the recreational fishing sector remains the same

9/Richard L. Gray, Jr. a resident of South Carolina, resigned effective September 2004. With the appointment of Julian M. Pendarvis, the total number of members on the SAFMC representing the recreational fishing sector remains the same.

10/Fishing sector changes occurred for Frank P. Farm, Jr. from recreational to “other,” and Benigno M. Sablan from commercial to “other” on the WPFMC.

TABLE 2: RFMC MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRING AUGUST 10, 2005					
OBLIGATORY MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED	AT-LARGE MEMBERS	APPT. DATE	CONSEC. TERMS SERVED
<u>New England</u> There are no 2005 obligatory vacancies on the New England Council			A. Fernandes II/ME/NH (C) T. Hill/MA (R) J. Pappalardo/MA (C) J. Williamson/ME (C)	1999 1997 2002 1996	2 *2 1 ***3
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> NY: P. Augustine/R PA: E. Kray/R NC: J. Ruhle Sr./C MD: R. Savage/C	2002 2003 1999 1996	1 * 2 *, ***3	C. Witek III/NY (R)	2002	1
<u>South Atlantic</u> There are no 2005 obligatory vacancies on the South Atlantic Council			J. Dean/SC (O) G. Geiger/FL (R)	1999 2002	2 1
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> There are no 2005 obligatory vacancies on the Gulf of Mexico Council			M. Claverie/LA (R) J. Fensom/FL (R) J. Hendrix Jr./TX (C)	1996 1999 2002	***3 2 1
<u>Caribbean</u> PR: E. Piñero-Soler/C	2002	1	There are no 2005 at-large vacancies on the Caribbean Council		
<u>Pacific</u> WA: M. Cedergreen/R	2002	1	R. Brown/OR (C)	1996	***3
<u>North Pacific</u> WA: M. Bundy/C AK: H. Nelson/C	1999 2002	2 1	There are no at-large vacancies on the North Pacific Council		
<u>W. Pacific</u> CNMI: B. Sablan/O	2002	1	F. Farm Jr./HI (O) R. Morioka/HI (R)	1996 1996	***3 ***3
TOTAL 9			TOTAL 13		

Fishing Sectors: C=commercial; R=recreational; "O"=other

*These members replaced other members who left office during a term or who are deceased; in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, section 302(b)(3), any term in which an individual was appointed to replace a member who left office during the term shall not be counted in determining the number of consecutive terms served by that Council member.

**These members served a partial term during their initial 3-year appt., in accordance with 50 CFR 600.210(a). A voting member's Council service of 18 months or more during a term of office will be counted as service for the entire 3-year term.

***These members were appointed after January 1, 1986 and have served three consecutive terms; therefore, they are ineligible by law for reappointment to a fourth consecutive term.

TABLE 3: OUTGOING 2005 RFMC MEMBERS GROUPED BY GENERAL FISHING SECTOR CATEGORIES			
C=COMMERCIAL	R=RECREATIONAL	“O”=OTHER	TOTAL
<u>New England</u> Anthony Fernandes III John W. Pappalardo John C. Williamson	Thomas R. Hill		4
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u> Rick E. Savage James A. Ruhle Sr.	Patrick H. Augustine Eugene J. Kray Charles A. Witek III		5
<u>South Atlantic</u>	George J. Geiger	John M. Dean	2
<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> Joseph P. Hendrix	Maumus F. Claverie James B. Fensom		3
<u>Caribbean</u> Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler			1
<u>Pacific</u> Ralph H. Brown	Mark V. Cedergreen		2
<u>North Pacific</u> Hazel C. Nelson Milton J. Bundy			2
<u>Western Pacific</u>	Roy N. Morioka	Frank P. Farm Jr. Benigno M. Sablan	3
Total 10	Total 9	Total 3	Total 22

Removal of Members

There are occasions, after appointments have been made, when RFMC constituents have advised the Secretary of concerns about, or indicated disagreement with, some of the Secretarial appointment decisions. In some cases, constituents have called for the revocation of particular appointments. All such concerns are noted. However, in accordance with Section 302(b)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the removal of a council member is limited to the following circumstances:

- a) The Secretary may remove for cause any Secretarially appointed RFMC member only when the RFMC concerned first recommends removal of the member by not less than two-thirds of the RFMC voting members, and the RFMC submits such removal recommendation to the Secretary in writing, together with a statement of the basis for the recommendation; or
- b) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with Section 554 of Title 5, United States Code, the member is found by the Secretary to have committed an act prohibited by Section 307(1)(O) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which pertains to compliance with financial disclosure requirements.

E. THE SECRETARY'S 2004 APPOINTMENTS/2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the annual appointments announced on June 16, 2004, 17 of 19 members were seated on August 11, 2004. In addition, Richard L. Gray, Jr. was appointed to the SAFMC, and David W. Ortmann was reappointed to the PFMC. They were seated on September 12, 2004. Mr. Gray resigned from the SAFMC in September 2004. Julian M. Pendarvis was appointed to complete Mr. Gray's term, which will expire August 10, 2007.

The following sections update RFMC appointment rosters, specify apportionment totals for RFMC members, discuss fishery management issues and challenges being addressed by each RFMC, and make Secretarial recommendations for future nomination and appointment considerations. The latter reflects information included in letters sent to the constituent state governors requesting nominees, consistent with regulations at 50 CFR 600.215. The governors are required to submit their nominees by March 15, 2005.

1. New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for three NEFMC members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is eight commercial, three recreational, and one “other,” which reflects a change from nine commercial, two recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the NEFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector

David T. Goethel/commercial

Colin M. “Rip” Cunningham/recreational

Philip R. Ruhle, Jr./commercial

Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector

Erik S. Anderson/commercial (ineligible, by law to a fourth consecutive term)

Mark E. Amorello/commercial

Ralph P. Boragine/commercial

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NEFMC:

2004 NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (12 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	AVILA, RODNEY M.	MA	2006	C
O	BLOUNT, FRANCIS W. JR.	RI	2006	R
O	GOETHEL, DAVID T.	NH	2007	C
O	MC GEE, SALLY E.	CT	2006	O
O	ODLIN, JAMES A.	ME	2006	C
A	CUNNINGHAM, COLIN M. JR.	MA	2007	R
A	FERNANDES, ANTHONY III	NH	2005	C
A	HILL, THOMAS R.	MA	2005	R
A	PAPPALARDO, JOHN W.	MA	2005	C
A	RICE, DANA B.	ME	2006	C
A	RUHLE, PHILIP R. JR.	RI	2007	C
A	WILLIAMSON, JOHN C.	ME	2005	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Anthony Fernandes III – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat
(New Hampshire)

2. Thomas R. Hill – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Massachusetts)
3. John W. Pappalardo – commercial fishing sector – at -large seat (Massachusetts)
4. John C. Williamson – commercial fishing sector – at- large seat (Maine); by law, Mr. Williamson, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

As in the past, the majority of issues being dealt with by the NEFMC are related to the commercial sector. Of the eight members whose terms do not expire in 2005, one is a commercial seafood marketer; four are from the commercial harvesting sector with experience in the scallop, flounder, herring, lobster, monkfish, and mackerel fisheries, utilizing trawl, gillnet, purse seiners, and trap and pot gear; two are recreational rod and reel fishermen from the private and for-hire sectors of the recreational fisheries; and one is from the “other” sector.

The four upcoming vacancies include three outgoing members from the commercial sector and one from the recreational sector. Although nominees should include commercial fisheries representatives, governors are encouraged to nominate highly qualified representatives from the recreational fishing sector. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The NEFMC is responsible for six Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): Northeast multispecies, Atlantic sea scallop, Atlantic herring, deep-sea red crab, skates, and Atlantic salmon. In addition, the NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) are jointly responsible for two FMPs (spiny dogfish and monkfish). The NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the monkfish FMP, while the MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the dogfish FMP.

The species managed by the NEFMC are primarily commercial; however, the multispecies fishery has an important recreational component (party/charter and private vessels). The salmon fishery is considered recreational, though possession of Atlantic salmon is prohibited in the Exclusive Economic Zone under the Atlantic salmon FMP. Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch. Fishing gear technology and selectivity are areas of great interest, to allow healthy stocks to be harvested at or near their optimum yields while protecting overfished and rebuilding stocks.

In 2004, the Council's management actions included:

- **Northeast Multispecies**
The Council completed Amendment 13 to rebuild overfished stocks of groundfish, to address habitat impacts of the fishery, and to bring the FMP into full conformance with all applicable laws. The Council also completed Framework Adjustments 39 and 40-A and developed Framework 40-B to the FMP. Framework 39 allowed the scallop fishery access to groundfish closed areas. Framework 40-A provided the groundfish fishery additional opportunities to harvest healthy stocks of groundfish while protecting the overfished stocks. Framework 40-B proposes to provide additional flexibility and to address other issues in the management program.
- **Atlantic Sea Scallops**
The Council completed Amendment 10 to use rotational area openings and closures to manage scallops, to address habitat impacts of the fishery, and to make other changes in the management of the scallop fishery, and Framework 16, which implemented the area rotation system in groundfish closed areas.
- **Atlantic Herring**
The Council submitted annual specifications for the 2005 fishery and continued work on a major amendment to the Herring FMP (Amendment 1), which will propose a limited access program for this fishery, as well as make other adjustments to the management program.
- **Monkfish**
The Council completed and submitted Amendment 2, which proposes significant changes in the management of the monkfish fishery and addresses impacts of fishing on essential fish habitat.
- **Deep-sea Red Crab**
The Council developed annual specifications for the 2005 fishery and Framework 1, which would provide for multi-year specifications for the fishery.
- **Habitat**
The Council developed habitat alternatives for consideration in Northeast multispecies Amendment 13, which considered impacts of the fishery on habitat and protect important groundfish habitat. The Council also developed habitat protection alternatives for the scallop fishery in Amendment 10 to the scallop FMP, for the monkfish fishery in Amendment 2 to the monkfish FMP, and for the Atlantic salmon and Atlantic herring fisheries for inclusion in an omnibus amendment, which will amend both of those FMPs.

Council priorities for 2005 include:

- Completion of a major amendment to the Atlantic herring FMP (Amendment 1);
- An omnibus amendment to address issues regarding essential fish habitat across all of the Council's FMPs;
- Framework actions to require vessel monitoring for general category scallop vessels; to allow multiple year specifications in the red crab fishery; to establish additional Special Access Programs; to make other changes in the management of the Northeast multispecies (groundfish) fishery; and to make biennial adjustments in the monkfish and groundfish fisheries.

2. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for four MAFMC members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains unchanged at six commercial, five recreational, and two “other.” The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the MAFMC remains unchanged. The appointee and reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Ronal W. Smith/ “other”	Reappointment
Frances E. Puskas/commercial	James R. Lovgren/commercial
Yvonne M. Peabody/commercial	Reappointment
Lawrence W. Simns/commercial	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the MAFMC:

2004 MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (13 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	AUGUSTINE, PATRICK H.	NY	2005	R
O	BOGAN, ANTHONY P.	NJ	2006	R
O	KRAY, EUGENE J.	PA	2005	R
O	PRIDE, ROBERT H. III	VA	2006	R
O	RUHLE, JAMES A. SR.	NC	2005	C
O	SAVAGE, RICKS E	MD	2005	C
O	SMITH, RONAL W.	DE	2007	O
A	NOLAN, LAURIE A.	NY	2006	C
A	PEABODY, YVONNE M.	VA	2007	C
A	PUSKAS, FRANCES E.	NJ	2007	C
A	SIMNS, LAWRENCE W.	MD	2007	C
A	SPITSBERGEN, DENNIS L.	NC	2006	O
A	WITEK, CHARLES A. III	NY	2005	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Patrick H. Augustine – recreational fishing sector – New York’s obligatory seat

2. Eugene J. Kray – recreational fishing sector – Pennsylvania’s obligatory seat
3. James A. Ruhle Sr. – commercial fishing sector – North Carolina’s obligatory seat
4. Ricks E Savage – commercial fishing sector – Maryland’s obligatory seat; by law, Mr. Savage, who is completing a third consecutive term is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.
5. Charles A. Witek III – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (New York)

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

A total of eight members will continue after 2005, four from the commercial sector, two from the recreational sector, and two from the “other” sector. All of the commercial sector members are harvesters, with experience in bluefish, flounder, tilefish, snapper-grouper and pelagic fisheries, utilizing dredge, trawl and longline gear. Recreational sector members are all rod and reel fishermen representing private or for-hire recreational fishery sectors.

MAFMC fisheries have both commercial and recreational components; therefore, it is important a balance be achieved between both sectors. The governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the recreational charter fishery, with hook and line and rod and reel experience, as well as representatives from the commercial sector. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The MAFMC is responsible for five existing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs): summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish; surfclam and ocean quahog; tilefish; and bluefish. In addition, the MAFMC and New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) are jointly responsible for two other FMPs (spiny dogfish and monkfish). The MAFMC has the lead responsibility for the spiny dogfish FMP, and the NEFMC has the lead responsibility for the monkfish FMP.

Some of these fisheries are primarily commercial (e.g., surfclam, ocean quahog, tilefish, spiny dogfish, squid, butterfish); others have significant recreational components (bluefish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, Atlantic mackerel). Management of all of the fisheries must take into consideration effects of the fisheries on habitat, and must consider ways to minimize bycatch.

In 2004, the Council's management actions included:

- **Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass**

In addition to developing annual specifications and recreational measures for these fisheries, the Council completed Framework 5 to allow multi-year specifications in those fisheries and began development of Amendment 1 to the FMP to address comprehensively allocation and conservation issues in the summer flounder fishery.

- **Surfclams/Ocean Quahogs**

The Council developed annual specifications for these fisheries.

- **Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish**

In addition to developing annual specifications for these fisheries, the Council continued the development of Amendment 9 to the FMP, which would revise Illex squid quota procedures, establish a limited access program for Atlantic mackerel, and make other modifications to the management of these fisheries; and completed Framework Adjustment 4 to the FMP, which extended the Illex squid moratorium while Amendment 9 is being completed.

- **Spiny Dogfish**

The Council developed annual specifications for this fishery.

- **Tilefish**

The Council completed an action to reestablish permit categories in the Tilefish FMP, which had been set aside by a court as the result of litigation, on the basis the categories were not sufficiently justified.

Council priorities for 2005 include:

- Completion of Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish FMP, which will address habitat issues, and extend the Illex squid moratorium;
- Development of Amendment 1 to the Tilefish FMP, which would implement individual transferable quotas in the portions of the fishery;
- Annual specifications for the summer flounder/scup/black sea bass, spiny dogfish, mackerel/squid/butterfish, bluefish, and surfclam/ocean quahog fisheries, including research set-asides, as warranted; and
- In conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, develop Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Seabass FMP, to address changes to biological reference points for summer flounder and to consider allocation issues in the FMP.

3. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for two SAFMC members. As result of the 2004 appointments, and an out-of-cycle appointment, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains unchanged at three commercial, four recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the SAFMC remains unchanged. The appointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Julian M. Pendarvis/recreational	Richard L. Gray, Jr./recreational
Rita G. Merritt/commercial	Robert L. Southerland/commercial

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the SAFMC:

2004 SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	HARRIS, CHARLES D.	GA	2006	R
O	IAROCCHI, ANTHONY L.	FL	2006	C
O	MERRITT, RITA G.	NC	2007	C
O	PENDARVIS, JULIAN M.	SC	2007	R
A	CURRIN, BENJAMIN M.	NC	2006	R
A	DEAN, JOHN M.	SC	2005	O
A	GEIGER, GEORGE J.	FL	2005	R
A	WALLACE, JOHN A.	GA	2006	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. John M. Dean – “other” sector – at-large seat (South Carolina)
2. George J. Geiger – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Florida)

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Of the six members whose terms do not expire in 2005, three are from the commercial sector and three are from the recreational sector. The remaining commercial members' experiences include harvesting and processing, while the recreational members are rod and reel fishermen. With the remaining Council sector representation being balanced at three commercial and three recreational, the governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the "other" sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The SAFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): red drum; shrimp (penaeid and rock); coral, coral reef and live/hard bottom habitats; golden crab; dolphin-wahoo; *Sargassum*; calico scallop; and the snapper-grouper species complex. The SAFMC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) have prepared joint FMPs for spiny lobster and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species (including mackerel) of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

In 2004, the Council's management actions included:

- Amendment 13A to the Snapper Grouper FMP, which included management actions to extend regulations prohibiting fishing for and retention of snapper-grouper species within the *Oculina* Experimental Closed Area. This Amendment was implemented April 26, 2004;
- Amendment 6 to the Shrimp FMP, which requires shrimp permits, modifies the Bycatch Reduction Device protocol in the FMP framework, establishes standardized bycatch reporting methodologies, requires vessel permits, requires the use of BRDs in the rock shrimp fishery, and establishes or modifies stock reference points and status determination criteria for managed shrimp species;
- Amendment 15 to the CMP FMP, which extends the South Atlantic fishing year and the commercial king mackerel permit moratorium; and
- A request to transfer management authority over red drum in the South Atlantic EEZ from the SAFMC (authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Act) to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) (authority under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act).

The SAFMC also:

- Devoted considerable effort with the Southeast Regional Office and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to develop options and conduct analyses for Snapper Grouper Amendment 13B. This Amendment would specify required Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) parameters in the snapper-grouper fishery and establish management measures to end overfishing and rebuild stocks;

- Determined Atlantic coast king and Spanish mackerels required no adjustments in 2004;
- Gathered comments and developed options on the use of marine reserves for fisheries management purposes;
- Actively participated in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review process for goliath grouper, hogfish, tilefish, snowy grouper, and king mackerel; and
- Conducted a series of workshops to further refine development of the South Atlantic fishery ecosystem plan.

Council priorities for 2005 include:

- Amendment 17 to the CMP FMP to extend the charter permit moratorium;
- Amendment 13B to the Snapper Grouper FMP to specify SFA parameters for snapper-grouper species and establish management measures to end overfishing and rebuild stocks;
- Transfer of the red drum FMP from the SAFMC to the ASMFC;
- Various framework adjustments for mackerel, snapper-grouper, wreckfish and coral; and
- Continue development of ecosystem management concepts.

4. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for three GMFMC members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives is five commercial, five recreational, and one “other,” which reflects a change from four commercial, six recreational, and one “other.” The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the GMFMC remains unchanged. The appointees and reappointee are as follows:

New Member Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Norman D. Adams, III/recreational	Irby W. Basco/recreational (ineligible, by law, to a fourth consecutive term)
Philip D. Horn/commercial	David E. Saucier/recreational
Julie K. Morris/ “other”	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the GMFMC:

2004 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends.	Interest Sector
O	ADAMS, NORMAN D. III	TX	2007	R
O	BELL, KAREN J.	FL	2006	C
O	FISCHER, MYRON J.	LA	2006	R
O	HORN, PHILIP D.	MS	2007	C
O	WALKER, BOBBI M.	AL	2006	R
A	CLAVERIE, MAUMUS F.	LA	2005	R
A	FENSOM, JAMES B.	FL	2005	R
A	HENDRIX, JOSEPH P. JR.	TX	2005	C
A	MORRIS, JULIE K.	FL	2007	O
A	THOMASSIE, WALTER J.	LA	2006	C
A	WILLIAMS, HAROLYN K.	MS	2006	C

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Maumus F. Claverie – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Louisiana); by law, Mr. Claverie, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.

2. James B. Fensom – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Florida)
3. Joseph P. Hendrix Jr. – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Texas)

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Of the eight members whose terms continue beyond 2005, four are from the commercial sector with experience in seafood marketing, processing and harvesting; three are from the recreational sector, and one is from the “other” sector. The governors are strongly encouraged to provide the Secretary with a broad spectrum of nominees from the commercial and recreational sectors as a basis for maintaining a balanced membership between those two sectors. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The GMFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone: reef fish; shrimp; coral and coral reefs; red drum; and stone crab. The GMFMC and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council have prepared joint FMPs for the spiny lobster fishery and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species (king and Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and cobia) of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

In 2004, the Council’s management actions included:

- Amendment 22 to the Reef Fish FMP, which established biological reference points, status determination criteria, and a rebuilding plan for red snapper. The amendment also established a standardized bycatch reporting methodology for the reef fish fishery;
- Amendment 23 to the Reef Fish FMP, which established biological reference points, status determination criteria, management actions to end overfishing, and a rebuilding plan for vermilion snapper;
- An emergency rule request to establish a trip limit for the commercial grouper fishery; and
- An emergency rule request to reopen the application process for the charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic fish.

The GMFMC also:

- Conducted a series of ecosystem management workshops;
- Actively participated in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review process for goliath grouper, hogfish, king mackerel and red snapper; and
- Established a control date for the grouper fishery.

Council priorities for 2005 include:

- Submit to the Secretary of Commerce Amendment 15 to the CMP FMP to extend the moratorium on commercial king mackerel permits and change the fishing year for Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel;
- Submit to the Secretary of Commerce Amendment 24 to the Reef Fish FMP to extend the moratorium on commercial reef fish permits;
- Draft Amendment 13 to the Shrimp FMP to establish status determination criteria, a permit moratorium, and standardized bycatch reporting requirements;
- Submit to the Secretary of Commerce Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Generic Amendment 3, which would designate EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and establish habitat protection measures;
- Draft Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish FMP, which would establish an Individual Fishing Quota program for the commercial red snapper fishery;
- A draft Generic Offshore Aquaculture Amendment, which would establish a permit system, monitoring requirements, and best management practices for conducting aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- An options paper for Amendment 18A to the Reef Fish FMP, which addresses several enforcement issues and would potentially establish a Vessel Monitoring System;
- Amendment 17 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP and options paper for Amendment 17 CMP and Amendment 25 to the Reef Fish FMP, which would extend the moratorium on charter/headboat vessel permits;
- Regulatory amendment to increase the Total Allowable Catch for red grouper and shallow-water grouper;
- Develop a limited entry program for grouper; and
- Develop an options paper for Shrimp Amendment 14.

5. Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for one CFMC member. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains the same at two commercial, one recreational and one “other.” The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the CFMC remains unchanged. The reappointee is as follows:

New Member Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Monica M. Lester/ “other” sector	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the CFMC:

2004 CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (4 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	BROWN, VIRDIN C.	VI	2006	O
O	PIÑEIRO-SOLER, EUGENIO	PR	2005	C
A	HANKE, MARCOS R.	PR	2006	R
A	LESTER, MONICA M.	VI	2007	C

EXPIRING TERM:

The following member’s term will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler – commercial fishing sector – Puerto Rico’s obligatory seat

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Remaining members who will serve beyond 2005 on the CFMC, include one commercial, one recreational, and one from the “other” sector. The Governor of Puerto Rico is encouraged to nominate representatives from the commercial sector so the Secretary can maintain the required balance on the Council.

DISCUSSION:

The CFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and amendments for the following fisheries or living marine resources in the Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone: spiny lobster; shallow water reef fish; coral and reef associated plants and invertebrates; and queen conch.

In 2004, the Council's management actions included:

- The Generic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment, which designated EFH for all species managed in the CFMC's FMPs; and
- An interim rule to prohibit all fishing from February 1 to April 30, 2005 on Grammanik Bank, located adjacent to the Marine Conservation District south of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. This action was requested to protect spawning aggregations of yellowfin grouper on Grammanik Bank.

The CFMC also:

- Devoted considerable effort with the Southeast Regional Office and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to develop options, conduct analyses, and choose preferred alternatives for the Comprehensive Amendment Addressing Sustainable Fishing Act (SFA) Definitions and Other Required Provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the FMPs of the U.S. Caribbean. This Amendment would specify required SFA parameters for all CFMC-managed species and establish management measures to end overfishing and rebuild stocks; and
- Approved implementation of EFH measures in the SFA Amendment.

Council priorities for 2005 include:

- The Comprehensive SFA Amendment, which would specify required SFA parameters for all CFMC-managed species and establish management measures to end overfishing and rebuild stocks. Final action is expected in 2005;
- Active participation in the Southeast Data Assessment and Review process for yellowtail snapper and spiny lobster;
- The Council will be part of an international delegation to study how to strengthen the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission;
- The Council will participate in an international Large Marine Ecosystem project; and
- The Council will continue active involvement in the international Queen Conch Initiative.

6. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for two PFMC members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives remains the same at two commercial, five recreational, one “other,” and one tribal representative, who is counted as a representative of the “other” sector. The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of available at-large seats on the PFMC remains unchanged. The reappointees are as follows:

New Member/Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
David W. Ortmann/ “other” sector	Reappointment
Roger Thomas/recreational	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the PFMC:

2004 PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (9 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	CEDERGREEN, MARK V.	WA	2005	R
O	ORTMANN, DAVID W.	ID	2007	O
O	TICEHURST, DARRELL J.	CA	2006	R
O	WARRENS, FRANK R.	OR	2006	R
O	PFMC TRIBAL SEAT: HARP, JAMES E.	WA	2006	Tribal
A	ALVERSON, ROBERT D.	WA	2006	C
A	BROWN, RALPH H.	OR	2005	C
A	HANSEN, DONALD K.	CA	2006	R
A	THOMAS, ROGER	CA	2007	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Mark V. Cedergreen – recreational fishing sector – Washington’s obligatory seat

2. Ralph H. Brown – commercial fishing sector – at-large seat (Oregon); by law, Mr. Brown, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

Members who will continue to serve beyond 2005 include one from the commercial sector utilizing longline gear in the halibut fishery, four from the recreational sector utilizing rod and reel and hook and line gear, one “other,” and one Tribal representative who is also counted as a member of the “other” sector.

Because salmon, halibut, groundfish, and highly migratory species have commercial and recreational elements, it is important to maintain a balance of both sector interests on the PFMC. Four recreational members will remain on the Council after 2005, compared to only one commercial member. The governors are strongly encouraged to nominate commercial representatives with expertise in all fisheries managed by the PFMC. Also, governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector, including people with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management.

DISCUSSION:

The PFMC has prepared Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for: Pacific Coast groundfish, West Coast salmon fisheries, coastal pelagic species (CPS) fisheries, and highly migratory species fisheries.

The PFMC also has responsibility for allocating Pacific halibut among treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial and recreational users in Area 2A under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act.

In 2004, the Council’s management actions included:

- 2004 fishery specifications and management measures for groundfish;
- 2005-2006 fishery specifications and management measures for groundfish under the newly adopted biennial process established under Amendment 17;
- 2004 mackerel and sardine and 2005 sardine harvest guidelines for the Coastal Pelagics FMP;
- 2004 fishery specifications and management measures for the Salmon FMP;
- In addition, the Council submitted four rebuilding amendments to the Groundfish FMP and completed the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Bycatch Mitigation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and
- Due to funding issues, the Council did not engage in major activities implementing the Highly Migratory FMP, which was formally approved in April 2004.

Council priorities for 2005 and 2006 include:

- Review of stock assessments for 23 groundfish species;
- Continue work on developing individual fishing quotas for the groundfish trawl fishery;
- Complete the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) EIS for Groundfish and implement regulations associated with the Groundfish Bycatch EIS;
- Continue work on expanding the Vessel Monitoring System from the limited entry fleet to the groundfish open access fleet;
- Amendment 11 to the CPS FMP is likely to be completed in 2005. This will be a major retooling of the Pacific Sardine allocation framework with final Council action anticipated for June 2005, and with implementation targeted for the start of the January 2006 Pacific sardine season;
- Continue work on Marine Protected Area issues and the development of a prohibition on the directed harvest of krill;
- The challenge for the salmon fishery continues to be providing opportunities for commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian fisheries in the ocean while protecting ESA-listed and other depressed salmon stocks; and
- Non-fishing impacts to essential salmon habitat in freshwater continue to be a major problem limiting recovery of depressed stocks.

7. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for two NPFMC obligatory members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, the composition of fishing sector representatives on the NPFMC remains unchanged at six commercial, and one recreational. There are no available at-large seats on the NPFMC. The appointee and reappointee are as follows:

New Member Fishing Sector
Douglas W. Hoedel/commercial
Stephanie D. Madsen/commercial

Outgoing Member Fishing Sector
Stosh S. Anderson/commercial
Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the NPFMC:

2004 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (7 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	BENSON DAVID W.	WA	2006	C
O	BUNDY, MILTON J.	WA	2005	C
O	FUGLVOG, ARNE J.	AK	2006	C
O	HOEDEL, DOUGLAS W.	AK	2007	C
O	MADSEN, STEPHANIE D.	AK	2007	C
O	NELSON, HAZEL C.	AK	2005	C
O	RASMUSON, EDWARD B.	AK	2006	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members' terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Milton J. Bundy – commercial fishing sector – Washington's obligatory seat
2. Hazel C. Nelson – commercial fishing sector – Alaska's obligatory seat

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATION(s):

NPFMC council members who will continue beyond 2005 include four from the commercial sector, two commercial harvesters and two seafood marketers; and one from the recreational sector. Although commercial fisheries are particularly important in this region, the governors are encouraged to nominate representatives from the "other" sector, as well as commercial and recreational sectors. "Other" sector nominees, with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or

social science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management would bring additional knowledge and expertise to the NPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

The NPFMC has five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in place for: Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish, salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone, BSAI king and Tanner crab, and scallop fisheries in the GOA and BSAI.

The Council recently adopted additional amendments to the groundfish and scallop FMPs, which have not yet been approved and implemented. Crab rationalization amendments to the FMP for BSAI King and Tanner Crabs was approved six weeks before the date (of January 1, 2005) mandated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004. Routine management of the fisheries under the salmon, scallop, and BSAI crab FMPs is deferred to the State of Alaska while the Council retains oversight of major allocation decisions. In addition, under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Council has authority over allocation issues affecting the Pacific halibut fishery in and off Alaska while the International Pacific Halibut Commission retains responsibility for conservation management of this fishery.

Of all fisheries managed under FMPs, only four species currently are considered to be overfished. These species include the Pribilof Island blue king crab, Bering Sea snow crab, Bering Sea Tanner crab, and St. Matthew blue king crab. The Council promptly began rebuilding plans for these species as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and these plans have been approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Rebuilding plans were approved for Pribilof Island blue king crab in 2004 (FMP Amendment 17), Bering Sea snow crab in 2001 (FMP Amendment 14), St. Matthew blue king crab in 2000 (FMP Amendment 15), and Bering Sea Tanner crab in 2000. The abundance of all four species continued to be below their respective minimum stock size threshold during 2004.

The most significant fishery management issues, which faced the Council in 2004, and will again receive priority attention in 2005 include:

- Ongoing refinement of rationalization programs for the BSAI and GOA groundfish fisheries;
- Restructuring of the Community Development Quota Program;
- Restructuring of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program with regard to costs and data quality;
- Completing work on the environmental impact statement for Essential Fish Habitat identification and conservation;
- Completing work on an environmental assessment to identify and protect Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; and
- Ongoing protected resources concerns such as the list of fisheries and protection of right whales, and fur seals.

8. Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Terms expired in 2004 for two WPFMC members. As a result of the 2004 appointments, and fishing sector changes for Frank P. Farm, Jr., from recreational to “other,” and Benigno M. Sablan from commercial to “other,” the composition of fishing sector representatives is three commercial, three recreational and two “other,” which reflects a change from four commercial and four recreational. The current geographical balances regarding the distribution of at-large seats on the WPFMC remains unchanged. The reappointees are as follows:

New Member Fishing Sector	Outgoing Member/Fishing Sector
Edwin A. Ebisui, Jr./recreational	Reappointment
Frank W. McCoy/commercial	Reappointment

The following table lists the Secretarial appointees currently on the WPFMC:

2004 WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (8 Members)				
Obl/Atl	Appointed Members	State	Appt. ends	Interest Sector
O	DUEÑAS, MANUEL P. II	GU	2006	C
O	HALECK, STEPHEN	AmS	2006	R
O	MARTIN, SEAN C.	HI	2006	C
O	SABLAN, BENIGNO M.	CNMI	2005	O
A	EBISUI, EDWIN A. JR.	HI	2007	R
A	FARM, FRANK P. JR.	HI	2005	O
A	MCCOY, FRANK W.	AmS	2007	C
A	MORIOKA, ROY N.	HI	2005	R

EXPIRING TERMS:

The following members’ terms will expire on August 10, 2005:

1. Benigno M. Sablan – “other” sector – Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ obligatory seat
2. Frank P. Farm Jr. – “other” sector – at-large seat (Hawaii); by law, Mr. Farm, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.

3. Roy N. Morioka – recreational fishing sector – at-large seat (Hawaii); by law, Mr. Morioka, who is completing a third consecutive term, is ineligible for renomination to a fourth consecutive term.

2005 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Of the five members on the WPFMC who will serve beyond 2005, three are from the commercial sector (harvester, seafood marketers), and two are from the recreational sector. In order to achieve a balance on the Council, the governors of the State of Hawaii, Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are encouraged to nominate representatives from the “other” sector as well as the recreational and commercial sectors. “Other” sector nominees, with backgrounds in academics, fisheries management, environmental science, economics, or social science, and who have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and habitat and ecosystem approaches to management would bring additional knowledge and expertise to the WPFMC.

DISCUSSION:

Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) are currently in place for five fisheries under the jurisdiction of the WPFMC: pelagics, bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, precious corals, and coral reef ecosystems.

In April 2004, a pelagics FMP regulatory amendment, prepared by the WPFMC and approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), re-opened the swordfish component of the Hawaii-based longline fishery. This fishery had been closed for nearly three years in compliance with Endangered Species Act (ESA)-related requirements to protect sea turtles taken accidentally by longliners fishing for swordfish. In 2003, as a result of a lawsuit on closure of the fishery, a Federal Court vacated the ESA biological opinion and the rule stemming from it, which enabled the WPFMC, in late 2003 and early 2004, to develop a regulatory amendment containing sea turtle conservation measures to facilitate a viable swordfish fishery.

The amended regulations implemented new sea turtle mitigation measures consisting of large 18/0 circle hooks and mackerel-type bait. These were proven to be successful in minimizing leatherback and loggerhead sea turtle interactions in the Atlantic Ocean. The regulations also establish limits on fishing effort in the swordfish fishery (2,120 shallow-sets per year, or 50 percent of the 1994-1999 average) along with “hard” limits on interactions with loggerhead (17) and leatherback (16) sea turtles. The swordfish fishery closes if any of these limits are reached. Additionally, the fishery must carry observers on 100 percent of shallow-set (swordfish) trips and at least 20 percent of deep-sets (tuna) trips, and must employ NMFS-approved dehooking devices to release sea turtles, which are hooked or entangled. With the re-opening of the swordfish fishery, pelagic fish landings by Hawaii-based longliners are projected to increase about 1,500 mt per year.

The WPFMC continues to be an active participant in international fora involving sea turtle conservation and highly migratory species management. Guided by its Turtle Advisory Committee, the WPFMC implemented five internationally-based sea turtle conservation projects on loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles, species that have the greatest likelihood of interacting with the Hawaii-based longline fishery. The WPFMC strongly believes that integrating sea turtle conservation measures at nesting beaches and foraging habitats with fishery management plans will provide greater benefits to sea turtle populations than measures that focus only on the pelagic environment.

The WPFMC continues to play a key proactive liaison role for highly migratory species in the western and central Pacific region. It also convenes numerous workshops on protected species mitigation, promotes collaborative research involving foreign fishing fleets and disseminates “best practice” tools and strategies to longline fishermen intended to reduce interactions between pelagic fisheries and protected species in the region.

F. Appendix – Statistical Fisheries Data

In addition to assessing the apportionment of membership on each RFMC, this report provides, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the following statistical information about the status of fisheries managed under each RFMC, and also identifies the number of RFMC members participating in those fisheries. The most recent data were compiled to show the volume of fisheries production and the related effort in each fishery managed under an FMP.^{11/}

^{11/}The Secretary also has management authority over Highly Migratory Species (HMS) in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. An additional table has been included with the following Appendix, which lists FMPs and other statistical data for Atlantic and Gulf HMS.

Appendix

This appendix provides statistical data required by Section 302(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Unless otherwise indicated, the data are for the 2003-4 fisheries listed by fishery management plan (FMP). Reported landings noted are for catches throughout the entire range of a fishery managed under the FMP. Beginning from the leftmost column, the listed data are:

1. FMPs developed by each RFMC;
2. the type of fishery managed under each plan, i.e., commercial or recreational, or mixed (see below);
3. species/species groups making up each fishery;
4. the weight of each species or species group in a fishery landed in 2003 (or as otherwise indicated) showing both the landings for commercial and recreational fishers, if recreational information is available;
5. the number of fishermen participating in the listed fisheries, if available; otherwise, the number of U.S. vessels either permitted or estimated to be operating in the fishery;
6. gear and processing methods used in each fishery; and
7. the range and seasonality of the fishery; and
8. the number of current RFMC members who are commercial or recreational sector participants in each fishery; or their representatives.^{12/}

LEGEND FOR TYPE FISHERIES

C - Commercial fishery: Eighty percent or more of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

c - Mainly commercial fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by commercial fishermen.

x - Mixed fishery: Sixty percent or less of the reported landings are by each group of commercial and of recreational fishermen.

r - Mainly recreational fishery: More than 60 percent but less than 80 percent of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

R - Recreational fishery: Eighty percent or more of the reported landings are by recreational fishermen.

^{12/}Vertical sums in the attached appendices may not match the sums entered for interest sectors in Table 1 page 7. If one or more fishermen actively participated in more than one fishery, the vertical sum will exceed the number entered in the interest sector column. Also, if a Council member participated in a currently closed fishery, he or she is still listed as a representative of the fishery in the table because of the expertise they bring to the Council regarding the operation of the fishery.

A-i NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NEFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2003	Vessels (permits) 2003	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
								Comm.	Rec.
Northeast Multi- Species	C	Commercial Atlantic cod Haddock Pollock Hakes Ocean perch (redfish) Yellowtail flounder American plaice Winter flounder Witch flounder Windowpane flounder* Atlantic halibut Ocean pout	9,103 5,952 4,224 12,739 361 5,565 2,430 5,890 3,124 64 14 26	3,529	trawl, dredge, longline, gillnet, hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted	8	
		Recreational Cod Pollock Winter flounder	2,452 93 351	687	hook & line	FMP area/year round	gutted, filleted		3
Atlantic Sea Scallops	C	Atlantic sea scallops	25,418	2,908	dredge & trawl	FMP area/year round	hand shucking and freezing	3	0
Atlantic Salmon	R	Atlantic salmon	0	none	None	none	none	0	0
Deep-sea Red Crab	C	Deep-sea red crab	1,684	1,139	Traps, trawl	FMP area/year round	whole, partially processed at sea	1	0
Atlantic Herring	C	Atlantic herring	90,978	2,273	Mid-water trawl; purse seines; weirs; otter trawl	FMP area/year round	fresh/canned shoreside/fresh bait	3	0
Monkfish	C	Monkfish	13,626	2,845	gillnets, trawls, dredges	FMP area/year round	fresh	7	0

NEFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
8	3	1

Statistics for the above data were provided by the Northeast Region and may also be contained in "Fisheries of the United States, 2003" (October 2004). Commercial data are based on NMFS 2003 weightout data. Recreational data are based on 2003 MRFSS data.

A-ii MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2003	Vessels (permits) 2003	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	
							Participants/ Representatives in 2004	Rec.
Atlantic Mackerel, Squid & Butterfish	C	Commercial Atlantic mackerel	34,298	2,791	otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/ year round	2	1
	C	Squid, Lolligo Squid, Illex Butterfish	11,935 6,391 536		trawl; traps	FMP area/ year round	frozen, whole at-sea & ashore, some mackerel fillets	
	R	Recreational Atlantic mackerel	770	652		FMP area/year round		
Atlantic Surf Clam & Ocean Quahogs	C	Atlantic surfclams Ocean quahogs	31,530 18,997	1,780 1,758	dredge	FMP area/ year round (ITQ mgmt.)	2	
Summer Flounder (fluke)	x	Commercial Recreational	6,479 5,279	984 717	hook & line, otter trawl, trap, gillnet	FMP area/ year round	3	3
Scup	x	Commercial Recreational	4,483 3,848	874 617				
Black Sea Bass	x	Commercial Recreational	1,372 1,564	932 680				
Tilefish	C	Golden Tilefish	1,025	1,871	longline, hook & line	FMP area/year round	1	
Atlantic Bluefish	X x	Commercial Recreational	3,059 5,478	3,370 821	hook & line; otter trawl; gillnet	FMP area/year round	1	3
Spiny Dogfish	C	Commercial	1,049	3,024	gillnet; trawl	FMP area/year round	5	1

MAFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
6	5	2

Statistics for the above data were provided by the Northeast Region and may also be contained in "Fisheries of the United States, 2003" (October 2004). Commercial data are based on NMFS 2003 weightout data. Recreational data are based on 2003 NMFS data.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits: ¹ Federal or Florida (FL))	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
								Comm.	Rec.
Atlantic Coast Red Drum	n/a ³	Commercial - Red drum Recreational (2003 landings)	41 ² 686 ²	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³	n/a ³		
Golden Crab	C	Golden Crab (2003 Landings)	100	10	Traps	FMP area/ year-round	Fresh		
Snapper/Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic	x	Commercial (2003 Landings) Groupers Wreckfish Snappers Other species Recreational (2003 Landings) ⁶ Groupers Snappers Other Species	691 Confidential 974 1,126 479 753 1,845	986 1,483 (for-hire)	Rod and reel, bandit gear, longline & handline Handline, rod and reel, bandit gear, spear, powerhead	FMP area/ prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau grouper and Goliath fish (jewfish) year-round FMP area	At sea, gutted	2	3
Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region	c	Commercial all (2003 Landings) Recreational white	8,073 n/a ⁵	N/A ⁴ n/a ⁵	Trawls n/a ⁵	FMP area/ year-round	Shoreside processing	1	
Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat of the South Atlantic Region	C	Commercial-Octocoral (2002-2003 landings) (colonies) Recreational	35,302 colonies n/a ³	n/a ⁷ n/a ³	Hand harvest	South FL/ year-round	Fresh	1	
Gulf of Mexico Spiny Lobster	[Shared with GMFMC]								1
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources	[Shared with GMFMC]								2
								3	

¹ Number of vessels with active permits at any time during 2004 (as of 12/14/04).
² State landings only.
³ Not applicable (n/a). Fishery closed in EEZ.
⁴ Not Available (N/A). No proposed FMP measures to allow NMFS to collect this data.
⁵ Not applicable (n/a). No recreational fishery in the EEZ.
⁶ MRFSS data only.
⁷ Not applicable (n/a). Permits are not required for octocoral harvest.

A-iii SAFMC (continued)

SAFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
3	4	1

Sources: Commercial landings information was obtained from the Accumulative Landings System at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Miami, FL and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates were obtained from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. NMFS Southeast Region Permits Division Permits Team, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2003.

A-iv GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (GulfMFC)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Fishery/Species, Species Group	Landings (metric tons) 2003	Vessels (permits) 2004	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
								Comm.	Rec.
Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-Stone Crab Recreational	2,399 (claw weight) N/A ¹	FL: 1,533 N/A ¹	trap, pot trap, pot, hand harvest	FL West Coast/ Oct-Apr	at-sea, de-claw; shoreside processing	1	
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	R	Commercial - Red Drum Recreational	13 ² 5,948 ²	n/a ³ n/a ³	n/a ³ n/a ³	EEZ Closed n/a ³ EEZ Closed n/a ³	n/a ³ n/a ³		3
Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	X	Commercial Grouper Red Snapper Other snapper Other species ⁷ Recreational Grouper Red Snapper Other snappers Other species ⁷	5,065 2,010 1,491 830 2,230 1,779 1,371 1,528	1,126 ⁹ 604 ^{8,9} N/A ¹ (1536 for-hire vessels ⁹)	longline, bandit gear, rod and reel, buoy gear, pot, trap, spear, powerhead, cast net, trawl spear, powerhead, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, cast net	FMP area/ year round, ⁴ and ⁵ FMP area/ year round, ⁴ and ⁶	at-sea, gutted; shoreside processing	3	5
Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial-All Recreational	115,468 N/A ¹	ca. 2,479 N/A ¹	trawl, butterfly net, skimmer, cast net trawl	FMP area/ year round; annual Texas Closure FMP area/ year round	tail separation at-sea; shoreside processing	1	
Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	C	Commercial Spiny lobster Recreational	1,945 575	104 commercial 329 tailing FL: 1,802 FL: 136,157	trap, pot, dip net, bully net, hoop net, trawl, snare, hand harvest dip net, bully net, pot, trap, snare, hand harvest	Florida/ Aug-Apr Florida/ 2-day sport-season in July, Aug-Apr	tail separation at-sea; shoreside processing		
Coral & Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico	C	Commercial Octocoral Recreational	10,666 colonies N/A ¹	N/A ¹ n/a ³	hand harvest hand harvest	South FL/ year round	fresh	4	3
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico & South Atlantic [shared w/SAFMC]	X	Commercial King mackerel Spanish mackerel Recreational King mackerel Spanish mackerel	2,370 2,196 3,512 1,873	1,940 1,364 N/A ¹ N/A ¹ (1,608 for-hire vessels)	gillnets, longline, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, purse net bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, spear	Gulf & South Atlantic: Year round, commercial closures when quotas are reached	At-sea, gutted; shoreside processing		

from preceding page:

- N/A¹ Not Available (No Federal permit or reporting requirements)
n/a² State landings only
n/a³ Not applicable (fishery closed in Federal waters);
⁴ Fishing prohibited year-round on Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat lumps. Commercial fishery for gag, red grouper, and black grouper closed February 15 to March 15.
⁵ Commercial fishery for shallow- and deep-water grouper closes once their respective quotas are met.
⁶ Commercial red snapper fishery is closed from January 1 until noon February 1 and thereafter from noon on the 10th of each month to noon on the first of each succeeding month until the quota is reached or until noon on October 1, whichever occurs first. From October 1 to December 1, the fishery is closed from noon on the 10th of each month to noon on the first of each succeeding month until the quota is reached or until December 31, the end of the fishing year.
⁷ Recreational fishery for red snapper is closed from January 1 to April 20 and from November 1 through December 31.
⁸ Includes greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish, gray triggerfish, tilefishes, and hogfish.
⁹ Includes Class 1 and Class 2 licenses
Reflects permits issued between 11/14/03 and 12/14/04

Gulf of Mexico - MEMBERSHIP			
	Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
	5	5	1

Sources: Commercial landings information for the 2003 season was provided by the NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division Gulf Branch, St. Petersburg, FL and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Marine Fisheries Information System. Recreational landing estimates for 2003 were obtained from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. NMFS Southeast Region Permits Division Permits Team, St. Petersburg, FL, provided the Federal permit information for 2004. The FFWCC provided Florida commercial permit information for the 2003-2004 license year.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Species/Species Group	Landings (metric tons). No correction factor	Vessel permits	Gear	Fishing Areas/Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
							Comm.	Rec.
Spiny Lobster	Commercial	110 ⁴ (PR) 108 ⁵ (USVI)	n/a ¹	trap/pot, dip net gillnet trammel net hand harvest snare	year-round	fresh, landed whole	2	1
	Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	dip net, trap, pot, gillnet, trammel net	year-round			
Reef Fish (snappers, groupers, ornamental species)	Commercial	651 ⁴ (PR) 595 ⁵ (USVI)	n/a ¹	longline, hook and line, trap, pot, gillnet trammel net	closures by species and area, prohibition on harvest and possession of Nassau and Goliath groupers, as well as juvenile red hind and mutton snapper as aquarium species; otherwise year-round	gutted at-sea, shore-side processing	2	1
	Recreational	481 ³ (PR) N/A ² (USVI)	n/a ¹	dip net, handline, rod and reel, slurp gun, spear				
Coral Reef Resources	Commercial	0	n/a ¹	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest	year-round	live, fresh		1
	Stony Corals	0	n/a ¹					
	Gorgonians	0	n/a ¹					
	Live Rock	0	n/a ¹					
	Other Invertebrates	0	n/a ¹					
Queen Conch	Algae	0	n/a ¹					
	Seagrasses	0	n/a ¹					
	Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	dip net, slurp gun, hand harvest				
Queen Conch	Commercial	85 ⁴ (PR) 49 ⁵ (USVI)	n/a ¹	hand harvest	October-June	live, landed whole, shore-side processing		
	Recreational	N/A ²	n/a ¹	hand harvest				

PR (Puerto Rico); USVI (US Virgin Islands)

1 = not applicable; no permits required.

2 = Not Available; MRFSS information for 2003 is available only for finfish for Puerto Rico only.

3 = Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey data; 2003.

4 = Accumulative Landings System; 2003.

5 = Data from Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami for 2002-2003 fishing year. Represents reported landings, no adjustments made to data.

from preceding page:

CFMC - Membership			
Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004	
2	1	1	

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	2003 Landings (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
								Comm.	Rec.
Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California	x	Commercial Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	907,600 25,900 500	1,120	troll	CA/May-Oct OR/April-Oct WA/May-Sept	fresh and frozen	1	4
		Recreational Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon	0 168,000 253,400	434,700 angler trips; (all species)	hook & line	CA/Feb-Nov OR/April-Oct WA/July-Sept			
Pacific Coast Groundfish	c	Total Pacific whiting Flatfish Rockfish Other groundfish Recreational Groundfish	141,406 14,177 4,158 9,277	Limited Entry: 406 Open Access: 1,150 N/A ²	trawl; hook & line; pots; set nets	CA/year round OR/year round WA/year round	headed & gutted; fillets; surimi; fresh & frozen	2	4
Coastal Pelagic Species	c	Pacific sardine Pacific mackerel Jack mackerel Market squid Northern Anchovy	71,478 4,213 231 41,078 1,800	Limited Entry (S. CA) 65 Open Access North - ca 43	purse seine	CA - year round OR and WA - summer	human consumption bait meal and oil		

PFMC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
2	5	2*

¹ Salmon catch expressed as numbers of fish.
² = Not Applicable: permits not required for some species.
* = total of two "other" includes tribal representative.

Statistics for the above data:

- 1) Pacific Coast groundfish fishery data was extracted directly from the PacFin data system.
- 2) "Review of 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries:" (February 2004; Pacific Fishery Management Council).
- 3) Status of the Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Fishery and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches-SAFE 2004, June 2004, Pacific Fishery Management Council).

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons) *	Fishermen & Crew**	Gear	Fishing Areas and Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004***	
								Comm.	Rec.
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	61,073 42,466 22,700 21,822 15,028 818 4,410	1,561 Federal fishing permits 1,706 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pots; hook & line; jigs	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI)	C	Pollock Pacific cod Flatfish Rockfish Sablefish Atka mackerel Misc. species	1,482,143 211,639 174,609 17,663 1,939 60,457 30,387	690 Federal fishing permits 553 LLP permits (some Interim)	trawl; pots; hook & line; jigs	area/time closures adjusted in season LLP permits have gear and area endorsements	hand & machine fillet; headed/gutted; frozen; minced; meal & oil	4	
Commercial King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the BSAI	C	King Crab C. Opilio Tanner Crab	8,232 10,859	349 LLP permits (some Interim)	pots	Deferred to State; generally November and winter months LLP permits have fishery endorsements	cooked; refrigerated; frozen	3	
Salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent state waters	C	Chinook salmon Coho salmon Pink salmon Sockeye salmon Chum salmon	2,378 5,779 98 12 642	3,135 permit holders (2,163 hand troll & 972 power troll)	troll****	Deferred to State; generally West area is closed; southeast area time area limits.	fresh; gutted & gilled; glazed; frozen; canned; smoked	1	
Scallop Fishery off Alaska	C	Weathered scallops (no fisheries for other scallop species listed in FMP)	132	9 LLP permits	dredges	Deferred to State; adjusted inseason	hand shucked	1	

\$ In addition to these five FMPs, the NPFMC also is responsible for developing regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in and off of Alaska under authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). These regulations, which are in addition to and not in conflict with regulations adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, primarily allocate halibut fishing privileges among U.S. fishermen. Although the NPFMC develops halibut management regulations according to principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, no halibut FMP exists because the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply to management of the Pacific halibut fisheries. In 2004, the commercial catch of halibut in and off Alaska was 25,976 metric tons, net weight. This catch was made by 3,619 persons holding a total of 4,025 permits to harvest halibut under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) Programs.

* 2004 salmon catch data are from the State of Alaska; these data represent only the southeast AK hand and power troll fisheries that are governed by the Salmon FMP and managed as one fishery, inside and outside State waters by the State of Alaska. The 2004 catch data for the BSAI crab and Alaska scallop fisheries also are from the State. All other catch data are from NMFS, Alaska Region. NMFS catch data include retained and discarded catch amounts; in the GOA, catch data for groundfish include harvests in State managed fisheries.

(Explanations for the asterisks and other notes are continued on the next page.)

**Data represent persons or vessels permitted to harvest fish, not the number of individuals actually involved in the operation of vessels, catching and processing fish. The actual number of License Limitation Program (LLP) permits is as of December, 2004, and has been decreasing steadily due to appeals adjudications and resulting revocations; and the number of permits actually used to harvest fish is fewer than that indicated by the data. Participation in all FMP fisheries is governed by some form of limited access system. License Limitation Programs (LLP), initially effective in 2000, apply to all fisheries except salmon (which is governed by the State of Alaska limited entry system), demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Gulf of Alaska, IFQ sablefish, and IFQ and CDQ halibut fisheries. Of the approximate total 2,221 current LLP permits, most (1,872) authorized fishing for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA or both, and 349 authorized fishing for BSAI crab species. A number of permits were interim and will be revoked following final adjudication of claims. Another source of permit reductions will occur in 2005, as a result of the BSAI Crab Fisheries Capacity Reduction ("Buyback") Program. Also, a total of 938 persons held 1,096 IFQ permits at the end of 2004, for harvesting sablefish with fixed gear in the GOA and BSAI under the IFQ Program. The salmon permit data are from the State of Alaska and represent the number of individual permit holders of hand and power troll permits in 2004. Not all permits holders landed fish in 2004.

***Secretarial appointed NPFMC membership in 2004: Commercial 6; Recreational 1; Other 0

****Troll gear is the only gear authorized to be used in the EEZ under the salmon FMP, however, other gear types such as gill nets, and purse seines are authorized in other areas of the State to harvest salmon.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	Type	Species/Species Group	Tonnage (metric tons)	Vessels (permits)	Gear	Fishing Areas/ Seasons	Processing	Participants/ Representatives in 2004	
								Comm.	Rec.
Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish	C	Bottomfish Seamount Groundfish	309 ^a	3600 ^b	handline rod & reel	FMP areas (year round/except Hancock Seamount (closed until year 2010)	fresh fish market	3	3
Crustaceans	C	Spiny lobster, Slipper lobster	0 (NWHI Fishery closed 2000-2004)	15 federal limited entry NWHI permits	traps	NWHI & MHI/ NWHI: 7/1-12/31 MHI- 1/1-4/30 & 9/1-12/31 (NOTE: NWHI Fishery closed 2000-2004)	flash frozen and live market	2	
Pelagics ^c	C	Tunas Swordfish Other (inc. sharks) Blue marlin Mahimahi Other billfish Wahoo	18,852 153 1,040 963 1,319 898 1,800 see: footnote (c) below	Estimated 8,000 ^d	troll handline longline	FMP areas/ year round except for area closures around Hawaiian Archipelago, Guam, and American Samoa.	fresh fish market Whole frozen for cannery	3	3
Precious Corals	C	All species combined	Harvest confidential	0	manned submersible/ remote operated vessel	FMP area (Makapuu bed and Exploratory Area of EEZ around HI)	shaped/ polished		

WPPAC - MEMBERSHIP

Commercial 2004	Recreational 2004	Other 2004
3	3	2

a Includes recreational, subsistence, & commercial domestic bottomfish landings from Guam & American Samoa, total commercial domestic landings from Hawaii & commercial sales data from the Northern Mariana Islands.

b Includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands recreational & commercial bottomfish vessels.

c Includes recreational & commercial domestic pelagic landings data, where available. Foreign transshipment or domestic cannery pelagic landings are not included in data.

d Includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands recreational & commercial pelagic trollers/handliners; Hawaii and A.Samoa longliners, Hawaii pole-and-line vessels.

A-ix HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN	TYPE	SPECIES/ SPECIES GROUP	LANDINGS 2003 MT = METRIC TONS WW = WHOLE WEIGHT DW = DRESSED WEIGHT	2004 VESSELS (PERMITS)	GEAR ⁹	FISHING AREAS/SEASONS ¹⁰	PROCESSING	2004 REPRESENTATIVES ¹¹			
								COMMERCIAL	RECREATIONAL	OS ACADEMIA/ENVR	FMCs
Atlantic Billfishes ¹	R	White Marlin; Blue Marlin; Sailfish; Longbill Spearfish (prohibited)	40 mt ww ³ (comm dead discards) 72.6 mt ww ³ (rec)	Charter permits ⁶ Recreational permit ⁷	Rod & reel	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Year-round	Sale prohibited	2	4	2	5
Atlantic Sharks ²	X	Commercial/Recreational -Large coastal (11 spp) -Pelagics (5 spp) -Small coastal (4 spp) -Prohibited (19 spp)	Comm ⁴ 2,107 mt dw 1,616 LCS 165 Pel 326 SCS	LIMITED ACCESS ⁸ Commercial permits - 241 directed - 348 incidental	Longline; Gillnets; Rod & reel; Handline; Bandit	Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Year-round with three four-month seasons: 1/1-4/30, 5/1-8/30, 9/1- 12/31	Fins exported; Carcasses/ cartilage to U.S. market	9	7	6	5
			Rec ^{4,5} 318,179 124,845 LCS 3,832 Pel 189,502 SCS	Charter permits ⁶ Recreational permit ⁷	Rod & reel; Handline		Sale Prohibited				
Atlantic Swordfish ²	X	Commercial	2,811 mt ww ³ (includes discards)	LIMITED ACCESS ⁸ Commercial permits - 195 directed - 99 incidental - 96 handgear	Longline; Handline; Harpoon; Rod & reel; Bandit Ottertrawl (incidental)	North and South Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico, Year-round North Atlantic directed semi-annual seasons: 6/1- 11/30; 12/1-5/31	Fresh/frozen U.S. market	9	7	6	5
		Recreational	5 mt ww ³	Charter permits ⁶ Recreational permit ⁷	Rod & reel; Handline	Year-round (East Coast of US)	Sale prohibited				
Atlantic Tunas ²	X	Commercial Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	3,910 mt ww ³ 1,114 2,373 291 115 17	Commercial permits - 208 Longline - 5,057 General - 49 Harpoon - 2 Trap - 5 Purse Seine (VTQ) Charter permits ⁶	Rod & reel; Purse seine; Bandit gear; Longline; Handline; Harpoon; Trap	Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean; Year-round 6/1-5/31	Bluefin: fresh foreign and U.S. market. Other tunas: fresh/canned foreign and U.S. market	9	7	6	5
		Recreational Bluefin Yellowfin Bigeye Albacore Skipjack	6,194 mt ww ³ 315 5,312 188 334 45	Recreational permit ⁷	Rod & reel; Handline		Sale prohibited				

1. Amendment One to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Billfish published April 1999.
2. FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks published April 1999. Amendment 1 to FMP published Nov. 2003.
3. Source: 2003 U.S. National Report submitted to ICCAT.
4. Source: Cortes and Neer. 2002. Updated Catches of Sharks. SEFSC/NMFS SB-02-15. 2003 data not yet available.
5. Number of fish (not mt).
6. 3,881 charter/headboat permits issued in 2004. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish fishing. These permits are considered commercial for Atlantic tunas.
7. 20,245 recreational angling permits issued in 2004. Required for all tuna, swordfish, shark, and billfish recreational fishing.
8. Total number of permit holders in both the shark and swordfish limited access fisheries is 657 because of permits issued for both fisheries to same permit holder.
9. Certain gear types may have restrictions, including time/area closures and gear modifications.
10. Seasons may close when quota is reached.
11. HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels include representatives of commercial and recreational fishing groups, academic and environmental organizations, and one each from the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, the states, and the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. There is one panel for tunas, swordfish, and sharks and one panel for billfish. The numbers for tunas, swordfish, and sharks are not additive.